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At the Colonial Club in this city I used to have long talks with Judge Pryor running over his marvellously eventful career (though I was always careful *not* to allude to Mr. Potter). The Judge looked like an Indian with high cheek bones, gaunt features, and long, very coarse, and jet black hair. Indeed he claimed—though I never heard him say so—descent from Pocahontas—left handedly, if at all, or perhaps it was from Powhatan properly. The Judge told me that he did not fire the first gun at Sumter because Virginia had not yet seceded and it would have been high treason to fire on what was at that time his country's flag, although he was rather proud to relate that he incited the state of South Carolina to fire on Sumter by coming down from Richmond for that purpose and telling them that nothing else would induce Virginia to secede. He did go in the boat to demand the surrender and got it. He was selected for hanging by Stanton and was imprisoned in Fort Lafayette in our harbor instead by Lincoln, but he became a justice of our New York Supreme Court and left a distinguished record behind him. When Jeff Davis, who did not love him, finessed him out of his brigadier-generalship by turning over his brigade to General Wise, Pryor enlisted as a private and was captured at Brandy Station. Some say he walked out of the ranks and surrendered himself to our lines there, to escape persecution by Davis. But as to this he never spoke and like the Potter episode I thought it wise not to lead up to it in our frequent talks.

APPLETON MORGAN

New York City

MORE LIGHT ON COLONEL UTLEY'S CONTEST WITH JUDGE ROBERTSON

I have been very greatly interested in Appleton Morgan's "Recollections of Early Racine," in the June, 1919 issue of the magazine. It is evident that Mr. Morgan had familiar personal knowledge of a great variety of events of much interest and importance in the early history of Racine, and with the actors concerned in them.

It is not strange that inaccuracies should creep into informal recollections of a time a half century and more gone, especially with relation to statements susceptible of verification or disproof only by

some research, and I venture to say that Mr. Morgan was mistaken in stating that Colonel Utley did not pay the judgment of \$1,000 in favor of Justice Robertson of Kentucky, for taking the latter's slave out of that state in 1862. Attention was called in a footnote to the fact that I had given a different account of the matter, in my *Racine County Militant*, and I would like to offer briefly the evidence in support of my statements concerning it.

With reference to that story, permit me to say that the facts concerning this phase of the controversy of Colonel Utley with Justice Robertson were related to me by Mr. Park Wooster, a stepson of Colonel Utley, and I have verified them within the last month in conversation again with him. Mr. Wooster tells me that he has many times heard his stepfather, Colonel Utley, tell the story of the payment of that judgment and subsequent reimbursement by the Government.

Having known Mr. Wooster for more than forty years and having personal knowledge also of the intimate and affectionate relations sustained by Colonel Utley with his stepson through a long period of years until the former's death, I am frank to say that this testimony satisfies me.

Within the last month, however, I have read the entire court record in the case, which is on file in the office of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, at Milwaukee. It consists of a complete certified transcript of the Kentucky court proceedings, and also the record of those in the Wisconsin court named above, where the case was also tried.

Complaint was first filed in the Jessamine County Circuit Court, at Nicholasville, Kentucky, on November 17, 1862. A court order to Utley to deliver the slave to Robertson was placed in the hands of the sheriff for execution; on his return, on the back of the order, that officer reported that on December 10, 1862, he demanded the slave, Adam, of Wm. L. Utley, and that he failed to produce him.

From that time on the case was largely a matter of continuances, demurrers, motions to quash, writs of error, and other legal devices to gain time and discourage the plaintiff, until on October 6, 1871 judgment was entered in the Wisconsin court for \$908.06 with costs of \$26.40. This judgment was satisfied on May 9, 1873.

The attorneys in the case were Stark and McMullen for Robertson, and Bennett and Ullman for Utley. On October 5, 1871, however, Matt H. Carpenter appeared for Colonel Utley in the last court action, and filed a demurrer to replication, which was overruled by the court, and on the next day judgment was ordered for the plaintiff. I submit that the above evidence is sufficient to warrant belief in the substantial correctness of the account of the affair as given by me in *Racine County Militant*.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. LEACH

Racine

GENERAL GRANT AT PLATTEVILLE

I was much interested in the report of J. H. Evans's recollections in the September number of the *MAGAZINE*, since I lived as a boy in Platteville and knew Mr. Evans as far back as I can remember. He is either in error or misquoted, probably, on page 86 when he speaks of seeing Grant the last time in 1868, in Platteville. Grant made his last visit to Platteville in the fall of 1880, after his return from the trip around the world. Major Rountree invited him up to spend a day and some of us boys went down to the depot to see him come in on the narrow-gauge railroad recently constructed from Galena. Besides the Major and us boys there were very few citizens at the depot. But in the afternoon Major Rountree gave a public reception at his home—and we boys went skating instead of going to see the General again.

I think that on page 121 the *MAGAZINE* should have referred to William E. Carter as of Platteville, rather than Lancaster. He was the leading lawyer of Platteville from the time of my earliest remembrance (the early '70s) until he removed to Milwaukee, in 1895. Of course, he may have lived in Lancaster earlier. George B. Carter was a near neighbor and his family and ours were intimate friends.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT H. SANFORD

La Crosse